



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named

Inventor : Thomas W. Bakker

Appln. No. : 09/889,726

Filed : July 18, 2001

Title : PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS AND
METHOD

Docket No. : S866.312-0006

Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: Giovanna Collins

EXPRESS MAIL COVER SHEET

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/21/05

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RESPONSE

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This is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 22, 2005, in which claims 1-29 were pending and claim 1-29 were rejected. Applicant traverses the rejections, as discussed in detail below, and respectfully requests that claims 1-29 be reconsidered and allowed.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102.**Claims 1, 4-7, 9-12 and 14**

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Priestman et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,548,616. However, Priestman et al. does not disclose each and every element of these claims, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 4-7, 9-12 and 14.

For instance, with respect to claim 1, Priestman et al. does not disclose that "said connection of successive tube parts end-to-end into said tube is completed before said tube is brought in communication with the borehole". Instead, Priestman et al. discloses (col. 4, lines 20-29) that a first pipe length 12 is assembled on the ground from a plurality of pipe sections and